(ADB) till 18.12.1996 is US $ 6,605.3 million for the energy, transport and Communication, finance, industry and non-fuel minerals, and social infrastructure sectors.

(c) No Sir.

(d) and (e). Do not arise.

Production of Coal

*429. SHRI NITISH KUMAR :
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are possibilities to increase production and to reduce the production cost of coal in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any study has been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the coal produced in the country is costlier than the imported coal; and

(f) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to reduce the production cost of coal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b). There is considerable potential to increase production of coal in the country. The increase in production of coal so far in the current year is 8% greater than in the last year.

Steps bring taken to augment indigenous production of coal include the following :

(i) Opening up of new mines.

(ii) Increasing efficiency and productivity in existing mines by modernisation and application of new technologies.

(iii) Ensuring timely availability of inputs and infrastructural facilities;

(iv) Partial de-regulation of coal prices. This is likely to improve internal resource generation of coal companies which will enable new projects to be taken up. It will also improve the financial viability to be taken up. It will also improve the financial viability of new mining projects.

(v) The capital base of Coal India Limited has been restructured. This will enable it to raise additional financial resources from the capital markets which are requires to add new coal production capacity.

(vi) Steps are being taken in coordination with the Railways to remove the transportation bottlenecks in such coalfield areas which have potential for enhanced production.

(vii) Steps are being taken to remove the bottlenecks in land acquisition.

(viii) Private sector companies engaged in production of iron and steel, cement and generation of power have been permitted to take up coal mining. This is expected to increase domestic coal production.

The coal companies continually make efforts to effect economies in the cost of production of coal. Such steps inclue :

(i) Increasing opencast mining.

(ii) Increasing the efficiency of coal production.

(iii) Modernisation and mechanisation of existing coal mines.

(iv) Reduction in surplus labour.

(v) Ensuring better power supply by setting up captive power stations etc.

(vi) Observing strict economies in operational expenditure.

(c) and (d). Efforts to increase production while reducing production costs proceed on a continuous basis after detailed study of the existing conditions and taking into account the available financial and technical resources. This is a continuous process.

(e) A study conducted indicates that imported non-coking coal is costlier than domestic coal on calorific value basis at all locations in the country. Imported coking coal, however, does not appear to be costlier than domestic coal.

(f) Does not arise in view of answer to part (e) of the question.

[English]

Revival Plan for Sick Companies

*430. SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the cases referred to Industrial Finance Corporation of India by the BIFR during the last five years for the preparation of revival plan of sick companies both in private and public sector;

(b) whether the revival scheme could not be prepared by the Industrial Finance Corporation of India so far; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The Board for Industrial and financial Reconstruction (BIFR) had appointed Industrial Finance Corporation of India Ltd., (IFCI) as Operating Agency in respect of 111 sick industrial companies (93 private sector, 6 central sector and 12